U.S. Express Mail No.: ER534273761US Attorney Docket No.: AM-5852.D1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Scott Fuller et al. § GROUP ART UNIT: 1756 § (Parent Application)

SERIAL NO.: Not yet assigned

FILED: January 15, 2004

FOR: METHOD OF IMPROVING THE SHELF LIFE

OF A BLANK PHOTOMASK SUBSTRATE

Attorney Docket No.: AM-5852.D1

Date: January 15, 2004

§ EXAMINER: N. M. Barreca

(Parent Application)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"

Hon. Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment "A" accompanies a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/912,116, filed July 23, 2001.

Please amend the application as follows.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. ER534273761US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: January 15, 2004

Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858